Navy’s SEALs Sealion Craft Deployed Forward, SOCOM Official Says

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Sealion heavy combatant craft designed for use by the Navy’s SEALs is now deployed forward, the program’s executive officer said.

Capt. Kate Dolloff, program executive officer-maritime for U.S. Special Operations Command, speaking to reporters May 12 in a teleconference during the vSOFIC Virtual Special Operations Forces Industrial Conference, sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association, said that one Sealion was deployed forward, one was used in training and one was in production.

The Combatant Craft-Heavy (CCH) Mk.I Sealion, with a name derived from the acronym for SEAL Insertion, Observation and Neutralization, is a low-profile craft with retractable masts for sensors and communications. It is equipped with a stern ram for jet skis, rubber raiding craft and diving equipment. The craft has seven seats for crew and SEALs, plus some standing room.

The Sealion can be transported by a C-17 or C-5 aircraft and by an amphibious warfare ship with a well deck.

The Sealion is built by Vigor, which acquired the original builder, Oregon Iron Works.